



Christopher A. Novak
President & CEO

March 27, 2020

The Honorable Robert E. Lighthizer
United States Trade Representative
600 17th Street NW
Washington, DC 20508

Dear Ambassador Lighthizer:

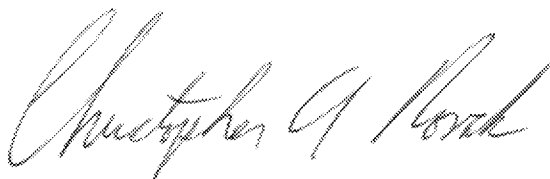
On March 12, I sent you a letter expressing concern about new trade restrictions that our industry is facing in Mexico. Since then, the situation has deteriorated. One of our member companies has received from SEMARNAT, the Mexican environment ministry, three new denials of import permits for glyphosate herbicide. SEMARNAT acknowledged the company's applications met the legal requirements for a permit, and the sale and use of the product within Mexico remains legal, but the import permits were denied solely based on the precautionary principle.

As I noted in my previous letter, however, this is not simply a problem with one product or one chemistry. We have clear indications SEMARNAT is considering similar restrictions on other pesticide products as well as inert and intermediate ingredients. Documents prepared for and by the Mexican government list more than 100 pesticide active ingredients as candidates for such treatment. We also believe the application of the precautionary principle to imports of pesticides is a likely precursor to a similar policy regarding maximum residue levels for agricultural imports. If that happens, damage to U.S. food and agricultural exports would be significant.

We are grateful for the attention the Administration has devoted to this issue. We know officials from your office and the U.S. Department of Agriculture have raised this issue forcefully in recent meetings with Mexican officials. Unfortunately, these efforts are not only having no effect on Mexican policy, Mexico appears to be moving even more rapidly in the wrong direction. We believe more and immediate pressure is necessary to help the Mexican government understand enactment of the precautionary principle is unacceptable and would violate both the provisions and spirit of the USMCA agreement.

We know you are currently evaluating changes in Mexico's legislation to determine if you can certify Mexico's readiness to honor its obligations under the USMCA. We see that Agreement as a significant accomplishment and would like to see it enter into force. However, Mexico's adoption of the precautionary principle is clearly not consistent with its obligations under USMCA. On behalf of CropLife America's members, we urge you to leverage the USMCA certification and implementation process to bring Mexico into compliance with its commitments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Christopher A. Novak". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid, with a large initial 'C' and 'N'.

Christopher A. Novak
President & CEO

cc: *The Honorable Sonny Perdue, Secretary—USDA*
 The Honorable Andrew Wheeler, Administrator—U.S. EPA
 The Honorable Ted McKinney, Under Secretary—USDA
 The Honorable C.J. Mahoney, Ambassador—USTR
 The Honorable Gregg Doud, Ambassador—USTR
 The Honorable Alexandra Dunn, Assistant Administrator, EPA/OCSP